

**Revised: June 1, 2013**  
**Effective: March 1, 2013**

**Guidance Document 2013 – 1b – Motor Bus**  
***(Supersedes 2012/1a-Motor Bus)***  
**\$500 Fee for Expired Vehicle Inspections**

In 2012, the Michigan Department of Transportation's Office of Passenger Transportation reviewed policies and procedures regarding the implementation and enforcement of Act 432 of 1982 – The Motor Bus Transportation Act. Based on this review, changes were made to the collection of the \$500 fee for expired inspections. This guidance document will explain how this provision of Act 432 is enforced.

- 1) Any vehicle not passing a state approved inspection by the end of the month in which the inspection for that vehicle expires (i.e., 12 months after the date of the previous inspection) will be considered out of compliance with Section 16 of Act 432 of 1982. A vehicle that is not in compliance with the respective act cannot be legally operated as a for hire passenger vehicle in the state of Michigan until it is brought into compliance.
  - a. When an inspection has expired, the vehicle will be marked as such in MDOT's Bus and Limousine Regulatory Information System (BLRIS). This system is accessed by the police to determine if a specific company **and** a specific vehicle is being operated legally.
  - i) If all of the vehicles on a carrier's roster become unauthorized their name will be removed from the Authorized Carriers list posted on the MDOT website.
  - b. After a vehicle has passed a state approved inspection, if insurance is up to date and all fees have been paid, the vehicle will be returned to good standing in BLRIS and the carrier will be notified that the vehicle is legal to operate. The carrier will also be returned to the Authorized Carriers list on the MDOT website.
- 2) Any carrier that allows an inspection to expire will be assessed a late inspection fee of \$500 per expired inspection in accordance with Section 17 of Act 432 of 1982.
- 3) **Late inspection fees must be paid prior to any vehicle inspection(s) and by the end of the month following the month in which the inspection is due.** For instance, if an inspection is due in October and you did not make arrangements to have it completed by MDOT by October 31, the late fee is due on the last day of November. MDOT will not conduct the inspection or issue **inspection decal(s) until all fees are paid.**
- 4) Per Section 17 of Act 432 of 1982, the certificate of any motor carrier of passengers who is delinquent in fees shall be revoked. **Therefore, if you do not pay the total required fee by the due date, your authority will be immediately revoked.**
  - a. To reinstate your authority you will have to register as a new applicant per Section 17 of Act 432 of 1982 and pay the \$300 filing fee in addition to the late inspection fee.

- b. At no time may you legally operate a vehicle for-hire that does not have an approved inspection on file with MDOT.

### **Important Reminders Regarding Inspections**

- The company is responsible for keeping track of when vehicle inspections expire. Make sure you keep copies of all inspections and all paperwork received from MDOT.
- The company is responsible for contacting the MDOT inspector to arrange the inspection. Contact must be made at least one month prior to the inspection expiration date and all fees must be paid prior to making the appointment for inspection.
- As a courtesy, MDOT will send a notice one month prior to the expiration of a vehicle inspection. If you do not receive this notification it does not absolve your company from your obligation to have the inspection done on time. We will not send a reminder or an invoice.

### **Vehicles in Out-Of-Service Status**

Vehicles may be placed temporarily out of service using MDOT form 3088 “Bus Roster Update”, which can be found on the MDOT website ([www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot)). However, placing a vehicle in the Out-of Service status does not remove the requirement for the vehicle to pass an inspection prior to the previous one expiring. Once a specific vehicle has been registered under Act 432, that vehicle must pass a safety inspection every 12 months to avoid the \$500 Fee for Expired Inspections, unless you have prior written approval from MDOT. To obtain written approval to remove a vehicle from service and allow the inspection to lapse, you must submit a request in writing to MDOT at least 30 calendar days before the inspection is to expire or immediately (within 24 hours) after a debilitating incident occurs. The request must detail the extenuating circumstances preventing the vehicle from passing inspection (e.g., very recent accident, very recent major component failure, etc.). You must be able to supply proof that the circumstances could not have been prevented. Requests should be submitted to MDOT at:

Michigan Department of Transportation  
Motor Bus Regulatory Unit  
P.O. Box 30050  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Fax: (517) 241-0127

Without such prior approval, if a vehicle has been taken out of service and the inspection expires, the \$500 fee will be applied on the first day of month the following the month in which the inspection expires and must be paid before that vehicle can be inspected and returned to service.

### **HOW TO AVOID LATE FEES**

- Schedule your appointment at least 30 calendar days prior your inspection with your MDOT inspector.
- Make all necessary repairs to your vehicle(s) prior to your inspection date. If a vehicle does not pass the state approved safety inspection by the end of the month it is due, it will be considered out of compliance and be assessed the \$500 late fee.